GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:307
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1995
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to take some items like wheat, rice, sugar out of the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and allow their free movement within the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sugar mills will not be required to supply sugar to the Government for Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted by the Government to supply sugar under the Public Distribution System?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Government has not taken any decision to take the items like wheat, rice, sugar out of the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. However, the Central Government has issued an Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute etc. any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar edible oilseeds and edible oils. The Order will take effect after thirty days from the date of its issue (15.2.2002) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Order made by a State Government before the commencementof this Order except as respects anything done, or omitted to be done, thereunder before such commencement.

(c) & (d): Sugar mills continue to supply levy sugar requisitioned by the Central Government for Public Distribution System.